

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An electronic document management system,
comprising:
 - a data creation device for creating data by dividing
5 an electronic document into two or more partial documents
having an arbitrary or fixed length;
 - a signature device for generating a plurality of items
of information for verifying the validity of each of the
partial documents and affixing a digital signature to an
10 aggregate of the generated items of information for verifying
the validity of the partial documents;
 - a masking device for masking, by deleting or modifying,
the electronic document targeted for a digital signature on
an individual partial document basis; and
15 a verification device for verifying the validity of
the masked electronic document.
2. The electronic document management system according
to claim 1, wherein the verification device confirms the
validity of the whole electronic document by verifying the
20 aggregate of the information for confirming the validity of
the partial documents; and confirms the validity of the
partial documents of the electronic document targeted for
verification by verifying the information for confirming the
validity of each of the partial documents, and determines
25 whether the electronic document is partially deleted or

modified.

3. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the verification device displays the result of the verification on a display unit for the purpose 5 of notifying a verifier whether the electronic document is partially deleted or modified while assuring the validity of the whole electronic document.

4. The electronic document management system according to claim 1, wherein the data creation device divides the 10 electronic document by adding a delimiter to the beginning and/or end of the partial documents.

5. The electronic document management system according to claim 4, wherein the electronic document is a document created with a markup language, wherein the partial documents 15 are markup units for the document created with the markup language, and wherein the delimiter is a tag for the markup language.

6. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the information for confirming the 20 validity of the partial documents is a hash value which is generated with a hash function for the partial documents.

7. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the information for confirming the 25 validity of the partial documents is a digital signature for the partial documents.